United Nations A/CN.10/PV.189

General Assembly

Official Records

DISARMAMENT COMMISSION

189th Meeting

Monday, 2 May 1994, 10 a.m.

New York

Chairman: Mr. Mongbe . . . . . (Benin)

In the absence of the Chairman, Mr. Koeffler (Austria), Vice-Chairman, took the chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10.25 a.m.

Statement by the Chairman

The Chairman *(interpretation from French)*: During the past one and a half weeks the Disarmament Commission has embarked on the second phase of its work and all three Working Groups have begun intensive deliberations on their respective agenda items. In the course of deliberations, various views have been expressed and proposals made by delegations on the subjects under consideration. A number of delegations have submitted to the Commission working papers on different agenda items. It is encouraging to note that the three Working Groups have made substantive progress on the respective subjects under consideration.

However, as members may recall, the Commission decided at its organizational session held in December last year that agenda items 4 and 5, dealing with nuclear disarmament and the role of science and technology, should be concluded at the current session. On behalf of the Chairman, I therefore wish to appeal to all delegations to make every effort to reach agreement on these two items. I am convinced that this can be done. The conclusion of these two subjects will demonstrate the faithful implementation of the provisions of the reform programme of the Commission adopted by consensus in 1990.

Reports by Chairmen of Working Groups

The Chairman *(interpretation from French)*: This plenary meeting will be devoted to the progress reports of the Chairmen of the Working Groups on the work on their respective agenda items.

Mr. Khandogy (Ukraine), Chairman of Working Group I: It is my pleasure to present the second progress report of Working Group I, established to deal with agenda item 4, "Process of nuclear disarmament in the framework of international peace and security, with the objective of the elimination of nuclear weapons".

Since my last progress report, on 25 April, the Working Group has had four official meetings. During those meetings we accomplished the first reading of the Chairman's paper (A/CN.10/185), as a result of which I have circulated the revised version of that paper (A/CN.10/1994/WG.I/CRP.2) based on comments and suggestions from delegations. We have begun the second reading of the revised Chairman's paper, which I hope we will be able to conclude today or tomorrow at the latest. I will try once again to summarize the discussion and circulate another version of the Chairman's paper, under the symbol A/CN.10/1994/WG.I/CRP.3, which I hope can become the basis for a consensus text of the guidelines that the Working Group is mandated to draw up.

The second reading of the Chairman's paper and, especially, the unofficial consultations I convened on Friday, however, revealed that we have a number of substantive issues on which it is not easy to find consensus language. Taking into account the very limited number of

94-85597 (E)

This record is subject to correction. Corrections should be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned, *within one week of the date of publication*, to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Section, room C-178, and incorporated in a copy of the record. Any corrections to the records of the meetings of this session will be consolidated in a single corrigendum, to be issued shortly after the end of the session.

meetings at our disposal, I feel that there is a possibility that we will not be able to complete our work on time.

That brings me to a personal observation, which should be addressed by the whole Working Group at an appropriate moment: in that eventuality, the Working Group might wish to recommend to the Commission a further extension of its work for one year. That might be a very prudent approach, since the Working Group has made a very good start. It would be unfortunate to abort its attempt in mid-course. Having said that, I still believe that, with the necessary degree of flexibility and political will, the Working Group could crown its work with a consensus paper this year, the final year of its deliberations.

Ms. Mason (Canada), Chairman of Working Group II: I too would like to give a second progress report, on the subject-matter of Working Group II, "The role of science and technology in the context of international security, disarmament and other related fields". Like Working Group I, we held four meetings during Week Two. The Working Group also had a presentation on the Bonn International Conversion Centre by the Minister of Science, Research and Higher Education of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia; this gave us an opportunity to focus for a little while on some practical applications of science and technology for arms control and disarmament broadly construed.

With respect to where we are in the Working Group, we will today begin to look at document A/CN.10/1994/WG.II/CRP.5, and we will continue to work on resolving what everyone agrees is the key issue: paragraph 12 of section III. We have made some progress, I believe, with respect to resolving this key issue but we are not there yet. We have made modest progress in clearing brackets in other, less contentious, areas of the text.

With respect to this week, as the working timetable will show, we have four meetings left. We are rapidly reaching the stage where definitive steps will have to be taken, particularly with respect to resolving the most contentious issue, in relation to paragraph 12, if we are to conclude our work successfully. It would therefore be my intention at the Working Group's meeting this afternoon to return to section III, paragraph 12, and to see once again if we can make progress there.

The Chairman *(interpretation from French):* I regret to announce that the Commission will be unable this morning to hear a progress report from the Chairman of Working Group III.

Programme of work

The Chairman *(interpretation from French):* As indicated in the adopted general programme of work (A/CN.10/1994/CRP.1), all Working Groups should conclude their work by Friday, 6 May, at 6 p.m., so that the Secretariat can process the final version of the reports of the Working Groups over the weekend and make them available in all official languages at the plenary meeting on Monday, 9 May, for consideration and adoption.

At the Expanded Bureau meeting held on Friday, 29 April 1994, the members agreed on a weekly working timetable, which has been distributed in informal paper No. 3.

If there is no objection, we shall proceed to that timetable.

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 10.40 a.m.